



Australian  
Bureau of  
Statistics

# Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 27 August 1992

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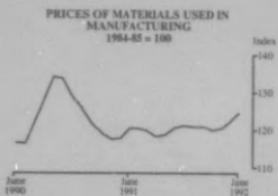
## Manufacturing prices in June

Higher world oil prices were a major contributor to a relatively steep rise in prices for materials used in Australian manufacturing in June.

Oil prices also impacted on the price to customers of goods produced by manufacturers, but this rise was well below the increase in input prices.

### Manufacturing materials prices increase

The price index of materials used in manufacturing industries increased by 1.8 per cent between May and June 1992; prices of home produced materials rose by 2.1 per cent while imported materials rose by 1.2 per cent.



The increase in home produced materials reflects higher prices for crude petroleum and milk, while price increases for crude petroleum and condensates, and components for machinery and equipment impacted on imported materials.

Over the year to June prices of manufacturing materials increased by 3.5 per cent.

The table below summarises the price movements of imported and home produced materials.

PRICE OF MATERIALS USED IN  
MANUFACTURING, JUNE 1992  
Percentage change

Source of material	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Imported	1.2	2.0
Home produced	2.1	4.3
All manufacturing	1.8	3.5

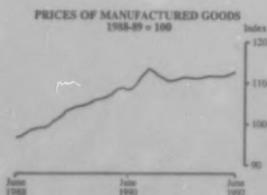
### Small rise in prices of manufactured goods

The price index of goods produced by the manufacturing industry rose 0.4 per cent between May and June 1992.

The increase was due mainly to higher prices for refined petroleum products following increases in world oil prices. Small price increases were recorded for about half of the other items in the index.

These increases were partially offset by price falls for about a quarter of the items in the index.

The All Manufacturing Industry Index rose by 1.3 per cent between June 1991 and June 1992.



Variations in the rate of price change for different sectors of manufacturing are shown below.

#### PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS, JUNE 1992

##### Percentage change

Manufacturing sector	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Petroleum products	4.6	5.1
Transport equipment	0.5	3.2
Food and beverages	0.0	2.6
Clothing and footwear	-0.1	1.2
Fabricated metal products	0.1	-0.1
Other industrial machinery	0.1	-0.3
Chemical products	0.3	-0.5
Basic metal products	0.8	-2.4
Total manufacturing	0.4	1.3

For further information, order the publications Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia (6411.0) and Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia (6412.0), or contact Carole Duthie on (06) 252 5348 or Peter Cordy on (06) 252 5541.

## Import prices rise in June

The Import Price Index rose by 1.3 per cent in June 1992 resulting in an increase of 2.3 per cent from June 1991 to June 1992.

The main contributors to the price rise during June were road vehicles; mineral fuels, lubricants and other related materials; miscellaneous general industrial machinery and equipment; and miscellaneous chemical materials and products.

The continuing fall in the value of the Australian dollar against the major trading currencies in June made a significant contribution to the increase in the index.

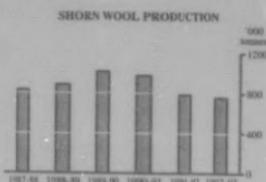
#### IMPORT PRICES, JUNE 1992

##### Percentage change

Selected items	From previous month
Mineral fuels, lubricants and other related materials	4.2
Crude materials	2.9
Machinery and transport equipment	1.5
Chemical products	1.0
Other commodities and transactions	1.0
Animal and vegetable oils, etc.	-2.5
All items	1.3

For further information, order the publication Import Price Index, Australia (6414.0), or contact Carole Duthie on (06) 252 5348.

## Experts predict lower wool clip



Shorn wool production is expected to decrease by 3.6 per cent in 1992-93 to 772 thousand tonnes, compared with an expected 801 thousand tonnes for 1991-92.

This forecast was issued by the Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee on 6 August 1992. The committee includes the Australian Wool Corporation, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers of Australia.

Shorn wool production is expected to fall in New South Wales and Queensland by 8 per cent and 17 per cent respectively. In Tasmania, an 8 per cent increase in production is expected.

The number of sheep and lambs shorn is projected to drop by 4.6 per cent in 1992-93, to 172.8 million from the estimated 181.2 million shorn in 1991-92. The average cut per head is expected to be 4.47 kilograms, compared with 4.42 kilograms in 1991-92.

*For further information, order the publication Shearing and Wool Production Forecast, Australia, 1992-93, Preliminary (7210.0), or contact Bronwyn Brown on (06) 252 5435.*

## Labour force participation

In March 1992, Australia's civilian population included 12,154,700 persons aged between 15 and 69. Of these persons, during the twelve months ending March 1992:

- 8,545,200 persons (70%) worked at some time during the year;
- 1,971,800 persons (16%) looked for work at some time during the year;
- 5,230,600 persons (43%) were not in the labour force at some time during the year.

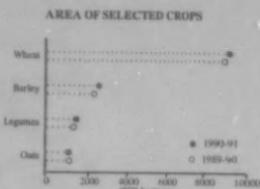
An estimated 9,294,200 persons aged between 15 and 69 years participated in the labour force, that is, worked or looked for work at some time during the twelve months ending March 1992. The proportion of people who participated in the labour force has remained steady at 77 per cent for the year ending March 1990 to the year ending March 1992. Prior to 1990, the participation rates were lower, with a rate of 74 per cent in 1986, increasing to 76 per cent in 1989.

The participation rate of males has remained steady at 86 per cent for all years between 1986 and 1992. The participation rate of females has increased from 62 per cent in 1986 to 67 per cent in 1992. However there has been little change since 1990.

The participation rate of persons aged 15 to 19 has decreased from 73 per cent in the year ending March 1986 to 69 per cent in the year ending March 1992, while the participation rate of persons in all age groups of 25 years and over has increased over the same period.

*For further information, order the publication Labour Force Experience, Australia (6206.0), or contact Jenny Poulton on (06) 252 6651.*

## Area used for crops rises



Final results from the 1990-91 Agricultural Census show that the total area used for crops was 17,382,000 hectares, an increase of 429,000 hectares (2.5 per cent) over the previous year.

The major contributing crops were barley which increased by 10.6 per cent to 2,556 thousand hectares, wheat up by 2.4 per cent to 9,218 thousand hectares, and legumes for grain up by 7.3 per cent to 1,388 thousand hectares.

As a result of the increased plantings, and reasonably favourable seasonal conditions in most States, production of most cereal crops also increased. The most significant was wheat which increased by 6.0 per cent to 15,066 thousand tonnes. Yields per hectare sown to wheat were above the average for recent years in all the wheat-growing States except Victoria.

However, there were some falls. Grain sorghum fell by 20.6 per cent to 751 thousand tonnes, oats fell by 6.7 per cent to 1,530 thousand tonnes, and rice fell by 12.5 per cent to 740 thousand tonnes.

Other crops to show significant variations in production were sunflower up 108.2 per cent to 152 thousand tonnes, rapeseed up 25.6 per cent to 98 thousand tonnes, cotton up 42.4 per cent to 1,539 thousand tonnes, and peanuts up by 47.2 per cent to 27 thousand tonnes, the first increase since 1986-87.

The area sown to sugar cane rose by 2.5 per cent to 407 thousand hectares (the highest since 1982-83) but production fell by 9.5 per cent to 24,370 thousand tonnes.

The number of establishments with agricultural activity decreased by 2.4 per cent to 126.4 thousand and the total area of these establishments was 462.8 million hectares, a decrease of 0.3 per cent compared with 1989-90.

*For further information, order the publication Summary of Crops, Australia (7330.0), or contact Henry Stefanik on (06) 252 5341.*

## Labour force time series

A comprehensive collection of the major Labour Force time series is now available in the recently released *The Labour Force Australia, Historical Summary, 1978-1989*.

Some of the key series included in this 320-page bulletin are labour force status by sex for Australia, States and Territories, with additional tables for Australia and the States on a seasonally adjusted and trend series basis. Age, birthplace, occupation and industry estimates, full-time/part-time status, unemployment rates and participation rates are just some of the variables found in this publication.

The Bureau proposes to update and re-issue this publication every five years. The previous edition covered the years 1966-84.

*For further information, order the publication The Labour Force Australia, Historical Summary, 1978-1989 (6204.0), or contact Information Services (see Inquiries column on page 6).*

## Inquiries

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- through its bookshops
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(including subscription)
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- electronically.

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### ABS Central Office

PO BOX 10  
BELCONNEN ACT 2616  
  
T 06 252 6627  
FAX 06 253 1404

### ABS State Offices

NSW (02) 268 4611  
Vic. (03) 615 7000  
Qld (07) 222 6351  
WA (09) 323 5140  
SA (08) 237 7100  
Tas. (002) 20 5800  
NT (089) 432 111

## All the week's releases: 19 to 25 August

### General

- Publications Advice, 21 August 1992 (1105.0; free over the counter)
- Publications Advice, 25 August 1992 (1105.0; free over the counter)
- Statistics Weekly, 20 August 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)
- Local Government Areas Statistical Summary, Qld, 1992 (1306.3; \$17.00)
- Economic Indicators, Qld, August 1992 (1307.3; \$6.50)
- Tasmanian Statistical Indicators, August 1992 (1303.6; \$9.50)
- Northern Territory Business Indicators, August 1992 (1307.7; \$5.00)

### Demography

- Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., June 1992 (3401.0; \$6.50)

### National accounts, finance and foreign trade

- Foreign Trade, Aust.: Merchandise Exports and Imports, 1990-91 (\$5410.0; \$30.00)
- Foreign Trade, Aust.: Merchandise Imports, June Qtr 1992 (5435.0; \$19.00)
- Commercial Finance, Aust., June 1992 (5643.0; \$6.00)
- Lease Finance, Aust., June 1992 (5644.0; \$6.00)

### Labour statistics and prices

- The Labour Force, Aust., July 1992 (6203.0; \$16.00)
- Labour Force Experience, Aust., March 1992 (6206.0; \$12.50)
- Industrial Disputes, Aust., May 1992 (6321.0; \$10.00)
- Average Retail Prices of Selected Items, Eight Capital Cities, June Qtr 1992 (6403.0; \$6.00)
- Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Aust., June 1992 (6411.0; \$10.50)
- Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Aust., June 1992 (6412.0; \$10.50)
- Import Price Index, Aust., June 1992 (6414.0; \$8.00)

### Agriculture

- Selected Agricultural Commodities, Aust., 1991-92, Preliminary (7112.0; \$16.00)

### Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service Industries, Building and Construction

- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Household Appliances and Electrical Equipment, June 1992 (8357.0; \$8.00)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Building Materials and Fittings, June 1992 (8361.0; \$8.00)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Transport Equipment, June 1992 (8363.0; \$6.00)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Metal Products, June 1992 (8367.0; \$6.00)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Wood and Wood Products, June 1992 (8369.0; \$6.00)
- Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, June 1992 (8504.0; \$10.50)
- Tourist Accommodation, ACT, June Qtr 1992 (8635.8; \$8.00)

### Transport

- Motor Vehicle Registrations, Aust., June 1992 (9303.0; \$10.50)

## Subscriptions

To subscribe to *Statistics Weekly* or any other ABS printed publication, phone the ABS Subscription Service toll-free on (008) 020608, or contact Information Services at any of the offices listed at left.

## Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

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Editor  
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(06) 252 6104

## Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 8 September 1992

### August

- [26] Manufacturing Production, Australia, July 1991, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.50)
- Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, July 1992, Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.50)
- [27] Stocks, Manufacturers' Sales to June 1992 and Expected Sales to June Qtr 1993, Australia, June Quarter 1992 (5629.0; \$10.50)
- Company Profits, Australia, June Quarter 1992 (5651.0; \$10.50)
- Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia, May 1992 (6302.0; \$10.50)
- [28] International Investment Position, Australia, June Quarter 1992 (5306.0; \$21.00)
- [31] Balance of Payments, Australia, July 1992 (5301.0; \$16.00)

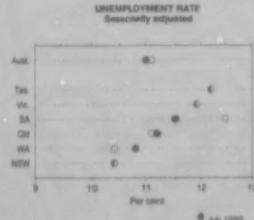
### September

- [1] Building Approvals, Australia, July 1992 (8731.0; \$13.00)

## The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to

25 August 1992



	— Percentage change from same period previous year —								
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
New capital expenditure (Mar. qtr 92)*	-33.1	-21.8	-18.4	-24.7	-1.5	5.7	n.a.	n.a.	-22.8
Retail turnover (June 92) (trend estimate)	6.0	4.5	9.5	-0.6	7.9	3.5	n.a.	7.7	5.5
New motor vehicle registrations (June 92)†	41.4	0.6	16.0	3.8	11.3	23.8	19.9	28.9	20.2
Number of dwelling unit approvals (June 92)†	26.4	21.7	37.3	30.9	41.7	39.5	-4.9	80.9	32.9
Value of total building work done (Mar. qtr 92)	-22.0	-15.8	9.3	-23.5	-14.6	26.9	-3.6	7.3	-13.3
Employed persons (July 92)‡	1.3	0.9	3.3	0.8	2.8	-1.2	0.9	0.6	1.6
Capital city consumer price index (June qtr 92)	1.0	1.3	1.2	2.0	0.5	1.1	1.7	2.2	1.2
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (Feb. 92)	5.5	3.4	3.2	5.3	5.1	3.2	5.7	5.3	4.4
Population (June 91)	1.3	1.1	2.2	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.0	2.9	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (Mar. qtr 92)	1.7	4.4	8.0	0.5	5.1	-0.7	14.6	2.4	4.0

\* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

# The latest ...

Key national indicators – consolidated to 25 August 1992

		Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on Corresponding period last year	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous per. d.	
<b>National production</b>						
Gross domestic product (A) — 1984–85 prices	\$m	June qtr 92	n.a.	65,000	0.6	1.6
New capital expenditure — current prices	\$m	June qtr 92	5,749	5,511	0.7	-15.4
— 1984–85 prices	"	"	4,604	4,407	2.0	-12.0
Expected new capital expenditure	"	Six months to Dec. 92	12,157	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Retail turnover — current prices	"	June 92	7,602	7,876	-1.8	4.9
— 1984–85 prices	"	June qtr 92	15,253	15,785	3.6	4.9
New motor vehicle registrations (e)	no.	June 92	53,301	49,751	20.9	20.2
Dwelling unit approvals	"	June 92	14,679	13,565	1.9	32.9
Value of all building approvals	\$m	"	1,838	1,699	-0.2	-0.1
Value of total building work done	"	Mar. qtr 92	5,278.8	5,739.3	-0.1	-13.3
— current prices	"	"	3,432.4	3,731.8	0.7	-10.8
Manufacturers' sales — current prices (f)	"	Mar. qtr 92	32,884	35,130	1.8	0.6
— 1984–85 prices (f)	"	"	22,814	24,284	1.1	-1.3
Expected manufacturers' sales (f)	"	Three months to June 92	35,070	n.a.	n.a.	-2.0
<b>Industrial activity</b>						
New capital expenditure — current prices	\$m	June qtr 92	5,749	5,511	0.7	-15.4
— 1984–85 prices	"	"	4,604	4,407	2.0	-12.0
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<b>Labour</b>						
Employed persons	'000	July 92	7,741.6	7,749.2	0.8	1.6
Unemployment rate †	%	"	10.7	11.0	-0.1	1.2
Participation rate †	%	"	63.2	63.5	0.3	0.9
Job vacancies	'000	May 92	24.3	24.8	-6.9	-3.4
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"	1.09	1.10	-1.5	-1.7
<b>Prices, profits and wages</b>						
Consumer price index	1989–90 = 100.0	June qtr 92	107.3	n.a.	-0.3	1.2
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984–85 = 100.0	June 92	124.6	n.a.	1.8	3.5
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988–89 = 100.0	June 92	112.7	n.a.	0.4	1.3
Company profits before income tax (f)	\$m	Mar. qtr 92	2,779	3,469	12.8	37.7
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time) (f)	\$	May 92	587.30	n.a.	-0.3	4.7
<b>Interest rates (b) (monthly average)</b>						
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	June 92	6.40	n.a.	-0.10	-4.10
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	8.90	n.a.	-0.20	-2.25
<b>Balance of payments</b>						
Exports of merchandise	\$m	June 92	4,682	4,749	4.5	5.4
Imports of merchandise	"	"	4,365	4,648	6.0	15.3
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	317	119	-36.9	-78.8
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	-100	-195	-139.7	n.a.
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	-1,230	-1,238	-7.0	-18.2
Terms of trade (d)	1984–85 = 100.0	June qtr 92	n.a.	99.0	-1.2	-1.0
<b>Foreign investment</b>						
Net foreign debt	\$m	31 Mar. 92	148,124	n.a.	2.4	7.6
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	199,312	n.a.	3.4	10.9
<b>Exchange rates (monthly average)</b>						
SUS	per \$A	June 92	0.7560	n.a.	n.a.	-0.6
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	"	56.2	n.a.	-1.6	-5.1
<b>Other indicators</b>						
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	Dec. 91	17.4	n.a.	0.3	1.4
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000	June 92	177	218	1.7	5.6

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures expected to be released Wednesday, 26 August 1992. (f) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 27 August 1992.

Note: Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 5). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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